

**AUGUST 2011 to OCTOBER 2011**

**(Volume 37)**





## AUGUST 2011 (Volume 37)





think that these Photo History makes me focus in on life. As I always carry a camera I am able to take shots at any time without the need to think about focusing and I find Lynn often now sees a shot before I do. The amount of time we spend in London and our love of the countryside, the family and things around us in general all find their way into these volumes and I guess we don't really care if no one else looks at them because it is really a self-indulgent past-time. If it gives others a pleasure it is an added bonus. I have just looked back over some early volumes and am amazed at the variety of scenes and memories that unfold. If nothing else it has retained my sanity, often allowing itself to be used as a 'moaning outlet' which must have a therapeutic value...and is certainly cheaper than a shrink - but on a deeper level it is a great showcase of life and not necessarily just my life...just what it was (and is) like to live in this time.

Taking a photographic course many years ago I remember the tutor gave us an assignment the title of which has remained uppermost in my mind ever since...*"if we depart this earth leaving no record of our life it is as if we have never lived"* . I am not sure how long this digital medium will remain accessible to future generations but from what I have seen of the many changes in my life when the record storage medium changes, the changeover is very rapid but there always seems to be a demand to transfer the previous medium to the newest medium. Therefore if you are reading this and thinking how strange life must have been in the 2000's don't think of us as strange and backward...we are a very forward thinking generation where more has happened in our short lives than in any other previous generation. I feel that the only downside is that in 'progress' sometimes the older, more innocent, ways, are superseded and when we realise that the old ways are gone forever we seek in vain for their return. This is shown in the love of antiques, nostalgia in many field and many ways. I hanker, like many people, for the more simple ways of living...the village life perhaps. The popularity of TV programmes showing village-based stories (maybe tongue-in-cheek) portray a countryside viewed through rose-tinted spectacles and in reality the 'good old days' were not really so good. I personally love to find a simple fishing village on holiday where I can enjoy a grilled piece of fish in a small family-run restaurant...but am I kidding myself?.... Probably. Does the owner, in reality, close up at the end of the season when the tourists leave and returns to his modern apartment in the city...I guess we all have dreams based on half-truths and idealised memories and perhaps one should not analyse them too closely...the reality may not live up to expectations.

Enough of my monologue but as I have said before...I am writing this for myself...if you are bored don't read it.....

October 2011



At the end of August we had a great country pub meal at The Fox and hounds with Ros and Mike



-----seen here with a long neck (oh sorry that's the wine bottle)

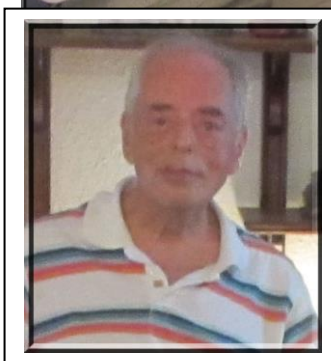








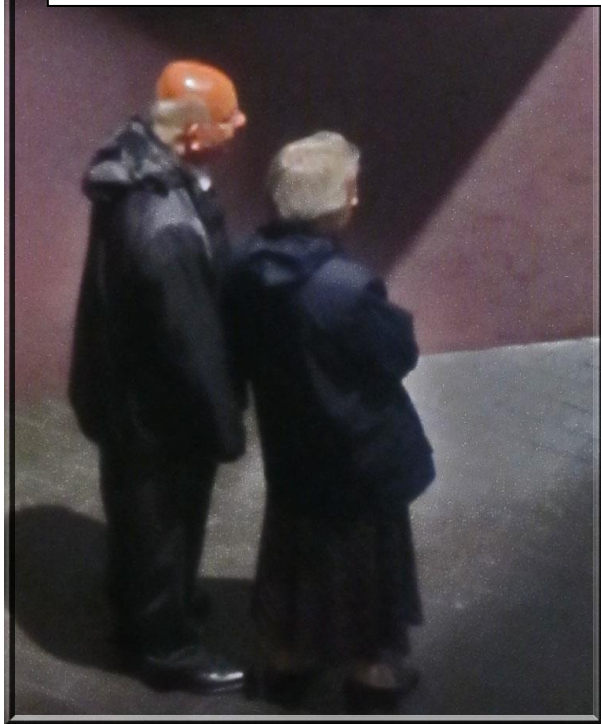
A happy Sunday lunch at home with lovely friends - September 2011







No, I don't know them but this couple on the floor below us at the National Theatre were engrossed in the Foyer music and the light seemed just right



# National Theatre

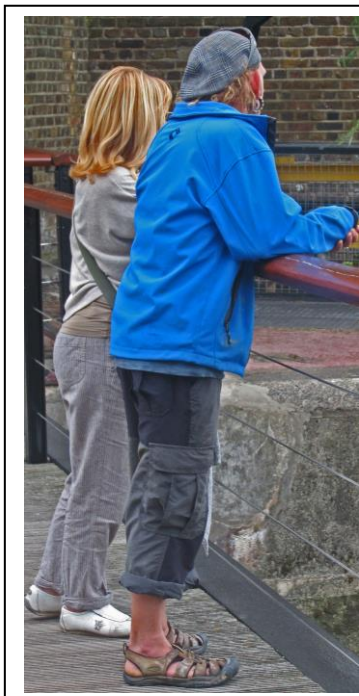


The stage set prior to the performance of 'The Kitchen'. We seemed to be in the minority of folk who enjoyed it but I remember seeing the film when I was a student and was alone in enjoying it then too





We met DP at St Katherine's Dock in Sept'11 when he crewed in the beautiful restored Thames barge that he sailed in from Ipswich to be in time for the Thames festival weekend.











Getting ready to join  
The celebrations...





They sent out the tender to bring us on board for cocktails





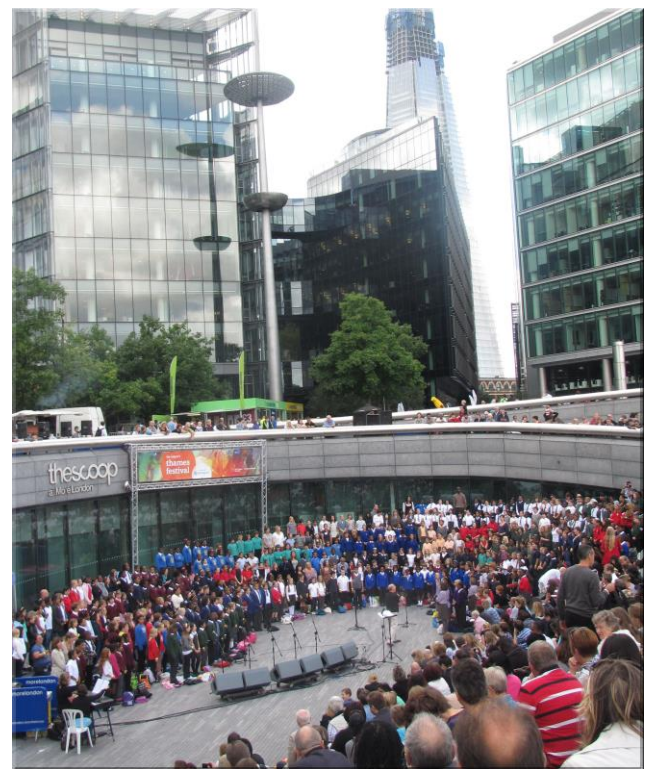


Sometimes a better grasp of English may prevent an unfortunate choice of business trading names..



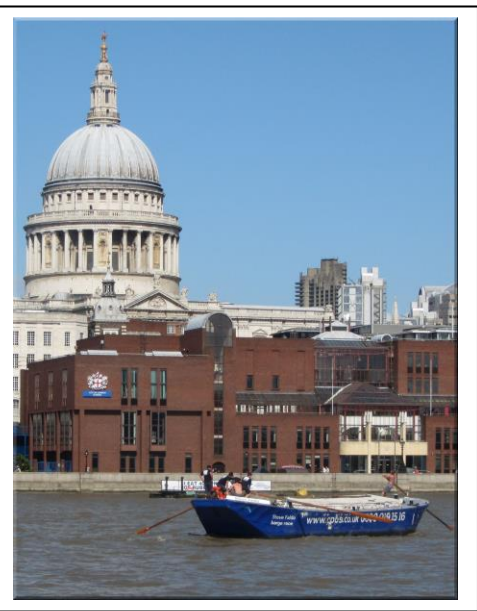


A great annual London happening....



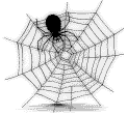
Barge-driving races re-enacted the way Thames watermen skilfully manoeuvred their barges in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries











House  
for  
sale.....  
Only  
tall thin  
people  
should  
apply





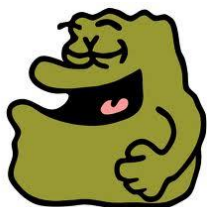


This view from old traditional Hoxton Road (where the market is held) towards the ever-changing city always fascinates us and I have several shots from here over the years as the skyline evolves....

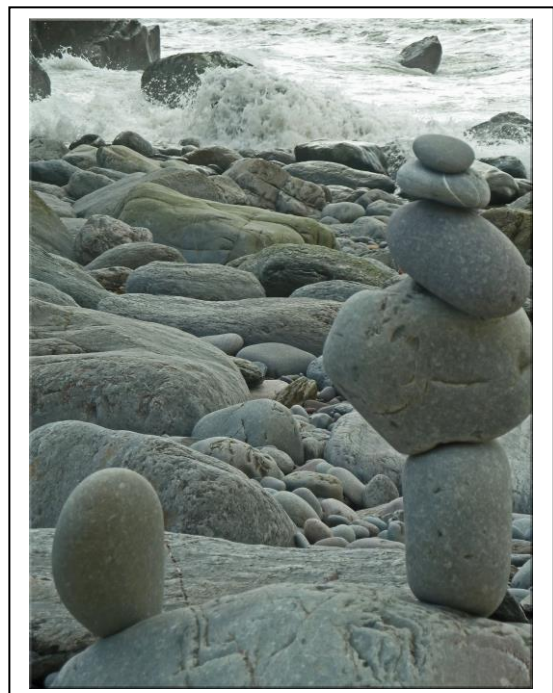




In September Martin, Maxine joined us in Devon and we had the pleasure of showing them some of our favourite haunts...the rocky beach at Heddon's Mouth and lots of other places and we had great fun together as always...eating and laughing...















I think this sums up Heddon's Mouth...just the sheer beauty of this spot seems to leave us just absorbing the sound of the waves crashing on the rocks, the exhilarating rush of ozone and the taste of salt on our lips...





Probably the 100<sup>th</sup> version of this shot over many years but in every season it looks different and never fails to delight us...





The lovely cliff-top path to Lynton from Hunters Inn





Martin's blackberry foraging result...possibly a few more needed for lunch???



Deer feeding above us on the brow of the hill









Wow...that sarnie tastes great....

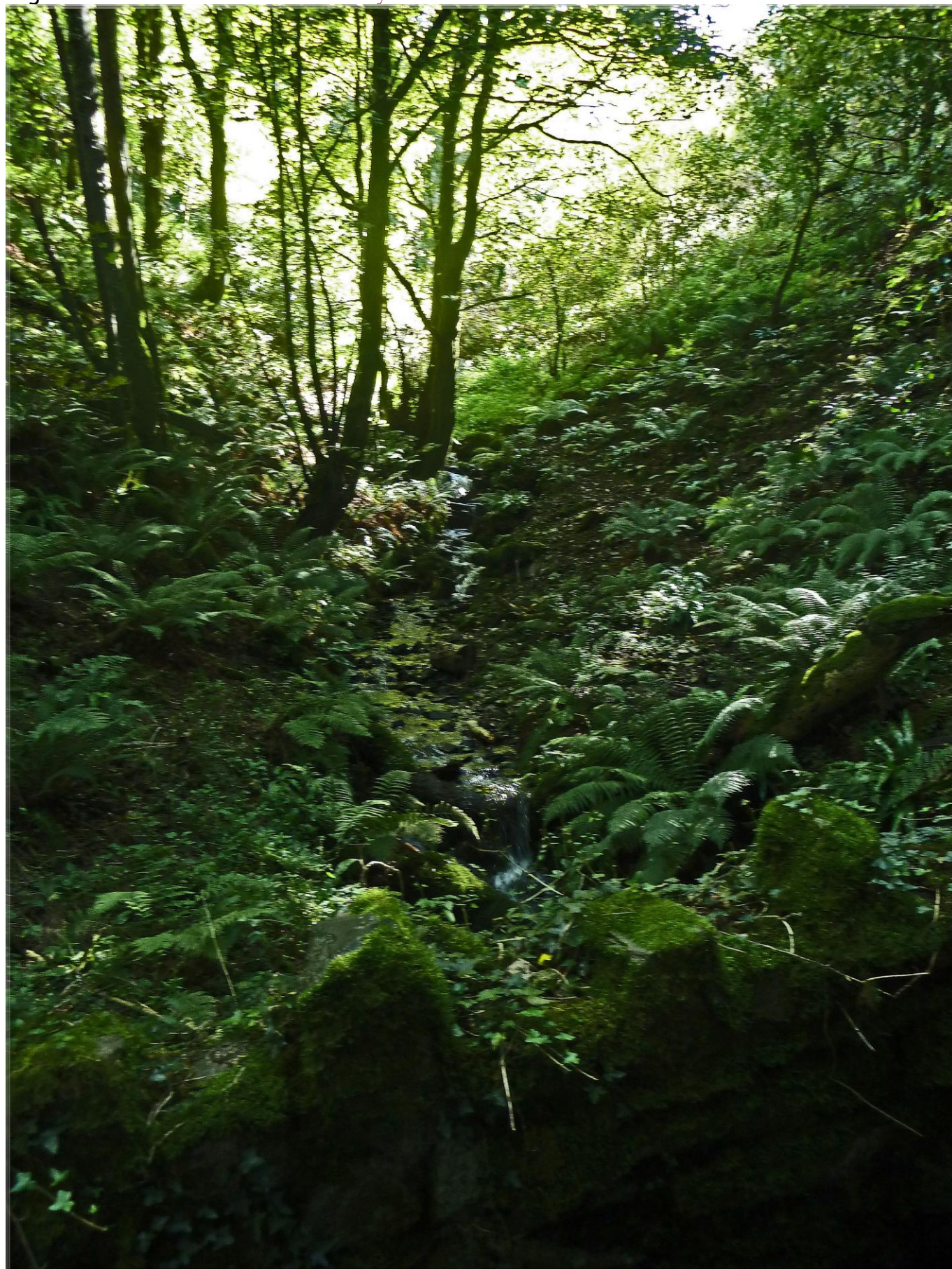






The dead centre of Lynton...the only place to get phone reception...(lots of coffin noises)...sorry about that

















"OK...don't talk to me....see if I care..."







The three leprechauns brew-up





The walk to Watersmeet



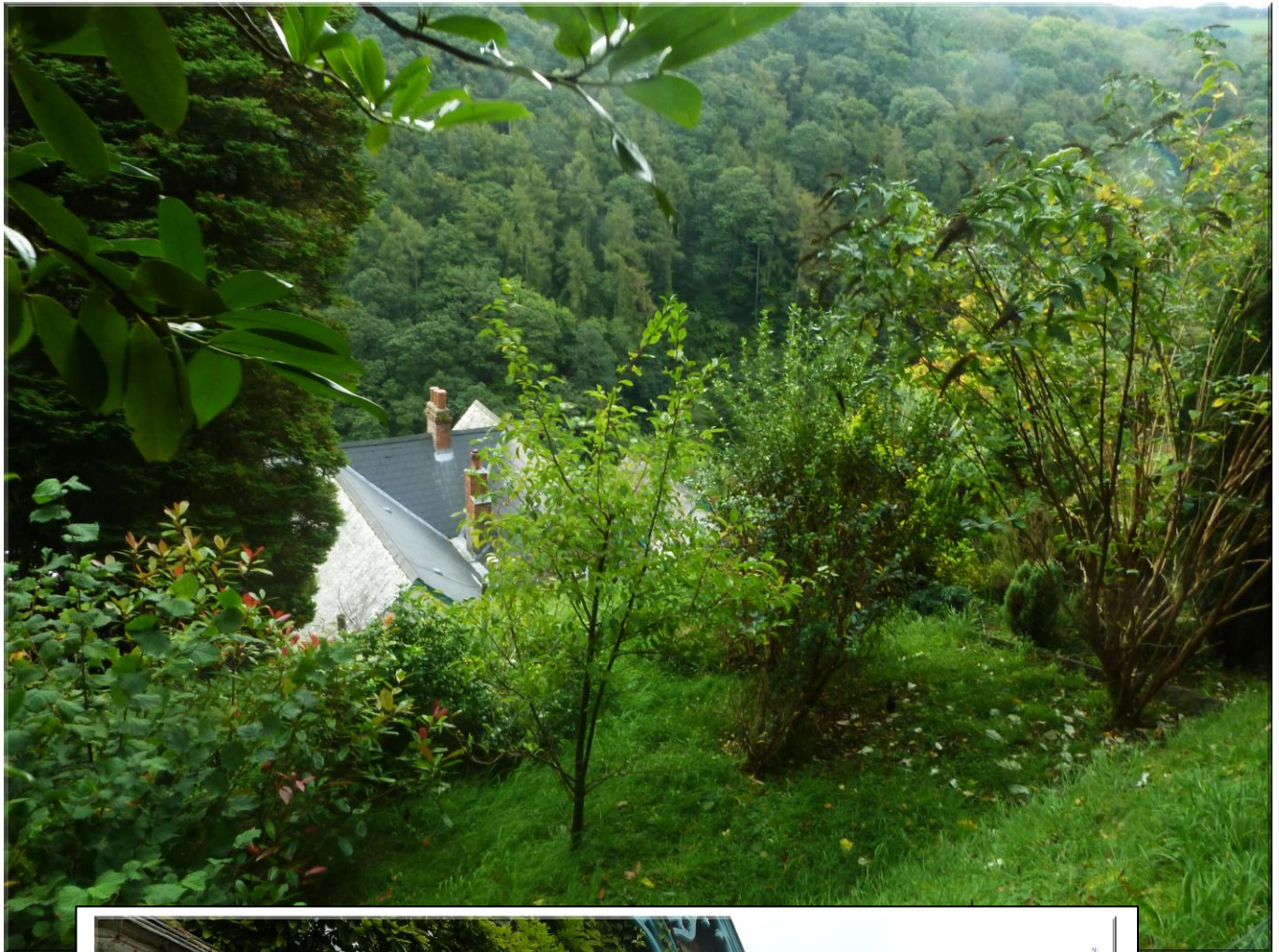








Our b&b was wonderfully situated







The steep garden at the back of the B & B was quite a climb but the view down made it worthwhile...Glad I did not have to do the gardening here

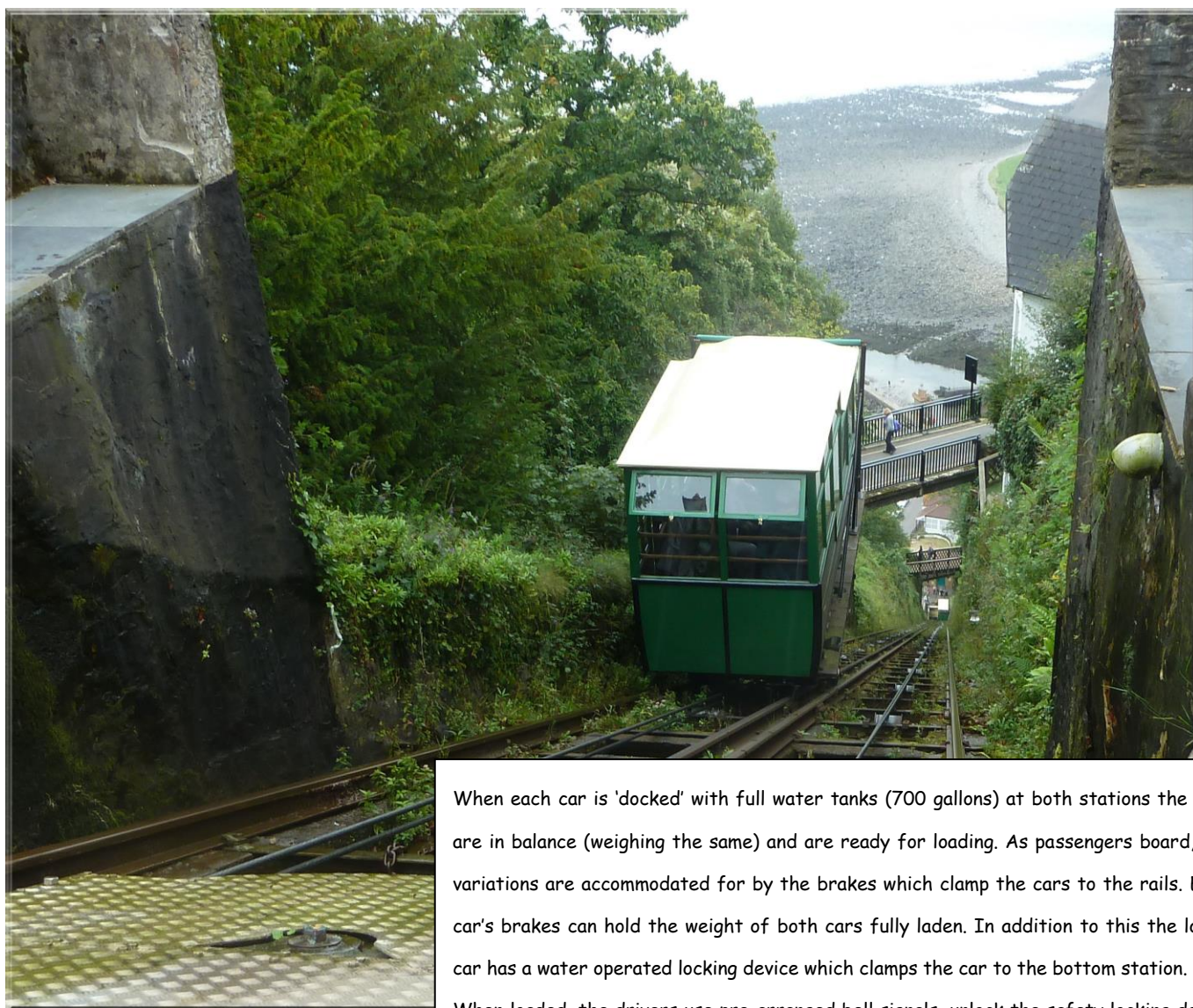






Every meal out seemed to be another 'find' - great food in some wonderful hidden-away pubs





When each car is 'docked' with full water tanks (700 gallons) at both stations the cars are in balance (weighing the same) and are ready for loading. As passengers board, the variations are accommodated for by the brakes which clamp the cars to the rails. Each car's brakes can hold the weight of both cars fully laden. In addition to this the lower car has a water operated locking device which clamps the car to the bottom station.

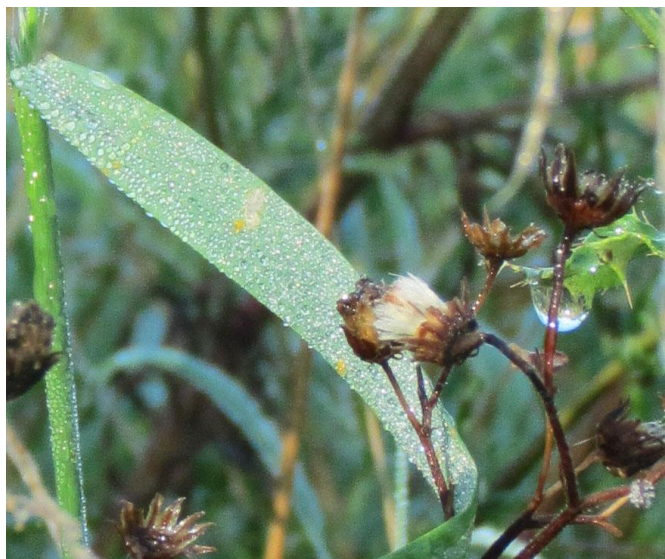
When loaded, the drivers use pre-arranged bell signals, unlock the safety locking device - then both cars brakes are released. The lower driver then discharges water (if required) to make the top car heavier. Sometimes this is achieved with the weight of passengers alone and no water is used. The top car then rolls down the rails - at the same time pulling the lower car up. Each car has two sets of brakes which are water operated. The 'governor', which in turn, is driven by the main wheels operate one set. These brakes have shoes which press down on the top surface of the rail and actually lift the car off the rail by 2mm, thereby relying on the weight of the car to give maximum friction between the rail and the brake shoes.

The other set of brakes work in reverse to a conventional brake system, such as that found in a motor car. In a car, the driver presses the pedal to apply the brakes. However, on the railway, the brakes are permanently on - operated by a large water accumulator via the drivers hand wheel. This means when the cars are unattended, the brakes clamp it to the rails making it impossible to move under any circumstances. These brakes are a calliper type which clamp each side of the crown of the rail.





This year the sunny weather seems to have delayed Autumn and we have had quite a few great walks with surprisingly great weather and the countryside seems to have a special magic ideal for photos...so what else is new???







The dew on the webs gave some great shots









What has become one of our favourite places over the years has now the added attraction of having become the kids favourite place as well (by sheer coincidence it is accessible just a few steps away ...at the end of their road) This shot was hugely magnified and shows Ben, Tammy and dogs enjoying their picnic below us.











In the distance....Tammy and Ben live just below the great tall tree in the centre of the shot above











Urban art...







Our total crop of plum(s)  
2011





...who needs Sainsbury's????





It is strange that in the heavily built-up centre of London we sometimes see forgotten buildings like this one crying out for attention on a busy junction on the Blackfriars Road





The Canon Street development is underway and will be quite an impressive Thames feature when completed





.....and to finish this volume some 'Shard' updates as seen from close to Borough Market





